

BeePost 2023 *EUROPA* Issues – Peace

Introduction

BeePost is a Lithuanian based private postal operators that operates alongside (and in competition with) the historic, national postal authority, Lithuanian Post (Lietuvos paštas) . BeePost is one of many such commercial operators that has sprung into life following liberalisation of the postal market within the European Union. Not all of these new commercial operators issue postage stamps, but BeePost is one that does.

BeePost is, I believe, part of the Stamperija commercial operation and I have seen the stamps issued by BeePost used for postal purposes.

2023 *EUROPA* Issue

The 2023 *EUROPA* theme is based around Peace, so it is likely that we will see more than one or two peace doves adorning our *EUROPA* stamps. The BeePost contribution to this European-wide theme is this pair of BeePost Lithuanian stamps that are based on the topic of and aspiration for “Peace to Ukraine”. The First Day Cover (FDC), seen below, is dated 24 February 2023, marking the anniversary of the illegal invasion of Ukraine territory by Russian forces, with all its horrific consequences.

2023 *EUROPA* Peace for Ukraine (FDC)



Image source: <https://stampera.eu/products/peace-lithuania-2v-fdc>

This particular stamp also comes in a sheetlet of six, as illustrated below:

2023 EUROPA Peace for Ukraine (Sheetlet)



Image source: <https://stampera.eu/products/peace-lithuania-ms-3-x-2v>

As you can see, the Sheetlet is also headed up “PEACE, the highest value of humanity” which few people will probably want to argue with. BeePost also operates in Estonia and in Finland. For this 2023 EUROPA Peace theme, BeePost has also issued almost identical stamps for use in Estonia and Finland. The difference in the design is that the Estonian stamps have “EE” where the Lithuanian issues show “LT”; and similarly, the Finish stamps bear the country code “FI” instead of the “LT”.

BeePost has issued a quantity of designs for use in Lithuania, but this one is the closest that the operator has come so far to issuing a design illustrating a bird. Note also that traditional catalogues do not normally include these stamps in their inventories of new issues, so perhaps that makes them collectable as a curiosity. In general, I think that many of the stamp issues from private operators are rather good; and are perhaps more often used for postal purposes than many of the stamps we see from our traditional postal operators.